

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8194

UNCLAS GENEVA 4722

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP JUNE 8: INFORMAL PAPER CIRCULATED BY UK
PROVIDING POSSIBLE CHECKLIST OF QUESTIONS BASED ON THE
CANADIAN PAPER

BEGIN QUOTE.

1. HAS THE AGENCY PROVIDED ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON HOW IT
HAS RECOVERED ITS BUDGET?
2. HAS THERE BEEN ANY DOUBLE COUNTING OF PROVISIONS FOR
COVERING COST INCREASES?
3. HAS A LIST BEEN PROVIDED OF DISCONTINUED PROJECTS AND
PROGRAMMES, INDICATING THE LIKELY AMOUNT OF RESOURCES WHICH
CAN THEREBY BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR NEW PROGRAMMING?
4. HAS THE RECOVERED BUDGET TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT PRODUC-
TIVITY INCREASES, ECONOMIES AND DISCONTINUED PROGRAMMES
WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE CONSTITUTE "HIDDEN GROWTH"?
5. IS THERE AN INEXPLICABLY WIDE DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE
US DOL/HOST COUNTRY EXCHANGE RATE USED BY THE AGENCY IN ITS
BUDGETARY ESTIMATES ON THE ONE HAND AND THE CURRENT EXCHANGE
RATE ON THE OTHER? (SLIGHT OVER-ESTIMATION OF THE FUTURE
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STRENGTH OF THE DOLLAR IS PREFERABLE TO UNDER-ESTIMATION).

6. DOES THE AGENCY EMPLOY THE SAME EXCHANGE RATE IN PRE-
PARING ITS BUDGETARY ESTIMATES AS ANY OTHER AGENCY BASED IN THE
SAME CITY?
7. DOES THE AGENCY ACCOUNT SATISFACTORILY FOR FUNDS

ACCRUING TO IT FROM FLUCTUATIONS IN THE EXCHANGE RATE, BEARING IN MIND THAT SUCH RESOURCES SHOULD NORMALLY BE USED TO COUNTER THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION ON THE BUDGET AND ONLY EXCEPTIONALLY TO INITIATE NEW PROGRAMMES?

8. IS THE AGENCY ABLE TO JUSTIFY MAJOR EXPENDITURE ON CERTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES BY REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC ANTICIPATED ACTUAL COSTS RATHER THAN TO ANNUAL COST INCREASES OR MOVEMENTS IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX?

9. BEARING IN MIND THAT SALARIES CONSTITUTE ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE AGENCIES' TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURE, ARE ANY GENERAL WAGE INCREASES SCHEDULED FOR THE AGENCY'S PROFESSIONAL OR GENERAL SERVICE STAFF DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW?

10. BEARING IN MIND THAT CHANGES IN SALARY RESULTING FROM MOVEMENTS IN THE COST OF LIVING PROBABLY CONSTITUTE THE LARGEST SINGLE ELEMENT OF COST INCREASES IN AGENCY BUDGETS, IS THERE ANY NOTICEABLE DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE AGENCY'S ESTIMATED ANNUAL RATE OF COST INCREASES ON THE ONE HAND AND THE CURRENT RATE OF INFLATION AND THE TREND OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IN THE HOST COUNTRY ON THE OTHER?

11. IN PROVIDING FOR ESTIMATED FUTURE COST INCREASES DURING THE PERIOD IN QUESTION, HAS THE AGENCY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT LIKELY SAVINGS ARISING FROM, INTER ALIA, PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES AND DISCONTINUED PROGRAMMES?

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12. DOES THE AGENCY PRACTISE "SEMI-FULL BUDGETING"?

13. TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE AGENCY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT REAL GROWTH SHOULD BE REGARDED IN TERMS OF NEW ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES PLACED AT ITS DISPOSAL?

14. HAS THE AGENCY USED APPROPRIATE METHODOLOGY IN CALCULATING THE EFFECT OF DELAYED STAFF RECRUITMENT ON BUDGETARY GROWTH?

15. WITH REFERENCE TO NEW PROGRAMMES PROPOSED BY THE AGENCY:

(I) ARE THEY OF HIGH PRIORITY TO MEMBER STATES?

(II) IS THERE ANY LIKELIHOOD OF DUPLICATION OF EFFORT?

(III) IS IT POSSIBLE TO FINANCE THEM BY CANCELLING OR REDUCING PROGRAMMES OF LESS IMPORTANCE, AND BY IMPROVEMENTS

IN THE GENERAL EFFICIENCY OF THE AGENCY?

16. IS AN INCREASE IN THE AGENCY'S BUDGETARY LEVEL JUSTIFIED
BY ITS EFFICIENCY EFFECTIVENESS AND PROVEN NEED, RATHER
THAN ITS WISH TO MAINTAIN STATUS VIS-A-VIS OTHER AGENCIES?
END QUOTE.SORENSEN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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